

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 ISO-00 SAJ-01 AID-20 EB-11 COME-00

TRSE-00 OMB-01 ACDA-19 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 IO-14 NIC-01 DRC-01 /194 W

----- 104607

R 151055Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7349

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CLACUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 11977

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: IN UR

SUBJ: BREZHNEV VISIT TO INDIA

1. TASS BUREAU CHIEF MATYASH INFORMED AN EMBASSY OFFICER OVER THE WEEKEND THAT BREZHNEV'S ARRIVAL IN NEW DELHI FOR A ONE WEEK VISIT BEGINNING NOVEMBER 20 IS NOW VIRTUALLY FIRM. BREZHNEV WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY GROMYKO AND PROBABLY FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER PATOLICHEV, CHARIMAN COMMITTEE FOR ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH FOREIGN COUNTRIES SKACHKOV, AN UNNAMED VICE-MINISTER OF DEFENSE, AND TASS DIRECTOR ZAMYATIN. THE VISIT WILL BE A WORKING ONE WITH LITTLE TRAVEL OUTSIDE NEW DELHI EXCEPT TO ONE SOVIET AID PROJECT, PROBABLY BHARAT HEAVY ELECTRICALS IN HARDWAR.

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2. MATYASH SAID THE SUBJECTS FOR DISCUSSION WOULD INCLUDE TRADE AND AID, MILITARY ASSISTANCE, THE MIDDLE EAST, JAPAN, CHINA, AND THE ASIAN SECURITY PROPOSAL. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THE INDIANS ARE UNENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT THE LATTER AND THOUGHT BREZHNEV WOULD NOT EXERT STRONG PRESSURES ON INDIA ON THIS SUBJECT. ASKED WHY JAPAN WOULD BE ON THE AGENDA. MATYASH SAID THAT INDIA AND JAPAN WERE SEEN BY THE SOVIETS AS TWO ANCHORS OF SOVIET POLICY INTEREST IN SOUTH AND EAST ASIA. THE SOVIETS WOULD LIKE TO SEE CLOSER POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC TIES BETWEEN JAPAN AND INAI AS A BALANCE TO CHINA. MATYASH WAS ABSOLUTELY BLUNT IN SAYING THE SOVIETS COULD NEVER GIVE UP ALL FOUR KURILE ISLANDS CLAIMED BY THE JAPANESE BECAUSE OF THE IMPACT THIS WOULD HAVE ON THE SOVIET NEGOTIATING POSITION WITH CHINA. HE SAID THIS WAS THE ONLY FACTOR INHIBITING THE SOVIETS BUT IT WAS A PARAMOUNT ONE IN TERMS OF SOVIET INTERESTS. MATYASH DODGED QUESTION ON MILITARY, TRADE, AND AID RELATIONSHIPS.

3. MATYASH SAID FORMER SOVIET AMBASSADOR AND NOW DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER PEGOV WILL VISIT DELHI IN THE NEAR FUTURE TO PREPARE FOR THE VISIT. THE SOVIETS HAVE NOT APPOINTED A NEW AMBASSADOR SINCE PEGOV'S DEPARTURE IN APRIL AND WILL NOT DO SO UNTIL AFTER THE BREHNEV VISIT. MATYASH NOTED WRYLY IT WAS HARD TO MEET INDIAN REQUESTS FOR A CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBER CLOSE TO BREZHNEV, WHO SPOKE ENGLISH WELL, AND WHO WAS YOUNG AND VIGOUROUS. MOYNIHAN

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